

IN CONGRESS OF THE U. STATES.

Thirty-Second Congress—Second Session.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1853.

[IN CONTINUATION.]

SENATE.

TEXAS NAVY.

On motion by Mr. MALLORY, all prior orders were postponed, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the joint resolution relative to the officers of the late Texas navy.

joint resolution was read a second time, and considered in committee of the whole. It provides that the existing laws limiting the number of officers in the navy of the United States be so far modified as to authorize the President to incorporate into the naval service of the United States the naval officers of the Russian navy, not to exceed eight in number, who were duly commissioned and in the service of said republic at the time of the annexation of Alaska, with the limitation that such of said officers as were promoted in the United States navy shall take no higher grade than that to which they would be entitled by due course of promotion if they had remained in the Russian navy.

Mr. RUSK moved to amend the joint resolution by

"And provided, further, That those of said officers who were formerly in the United States navy shall take no higher grade, number, or position than that which they would now occupy by due course of promotion if they had not left it, and that those who were not in the United States navy shall take such position as the President may assign them."

The question being taken on the amendment, it was agreed to.

THE PRESIDENT. The Chair has announced to the Senate that in his opinion the resolution setting apart Friday of each week for the consideration of private bills died at the last session. It only extended to that session, and has not been renewed at this.

regard to that matter, whether under our rules the business of one session does not come up at the commencement of the next session in the same order in which it was transacted at the close of that session, without any further order?

**THE PRESIDENT.** The Chair is of the opinion that the general principle would not affect this case at all. The consideration of a resolution of the Senate is renewed at a succeeding session, unless there is something in the terms of the resolution extending it to that session.

**MR. MILLER.** I was not expecting that this bill would be called up to-day, Mr. President. The honorable senator from North Carolina (Mr. CALDWELL) and the honorable senator from Maryland (Mr. PEACOCK) take an interest in that question; and as they are not now in their

seats, I hope the honorable senator from Texas will not push the bill to a vote now. The merits of that bill have been discussed there frequently, and there is considerable opposition to it on this side of the floor. I hope we will let it be passed over for to-day.

Mr. RUSK. Mr. President, this session is drawing to a close. This subject has been before the Senate, I presume, for the last two years, since the annexation of Texas. These officers are now suspended. They are believed, and the citizens of Texas believe that they have a right to come into the United States navy under the assistance of the articles of annexation. As the session is drawing to a close, I hope the honorable senator, as a matter of course, if it is postponed, we can expect no action upon it at this session. I would be willing to do anything in a spirit of accommodation that I could do; but I think it is important that this bill should

Mr. MILLER. I do not wish to delay this matter at all; but certain it is that this bill was not expected to come up to-day. This is privat-bill day, and this bill comes up out of order. The questions embraced in the bill I consider of greater importance to the navy than there have been various discussions upon it heretofore; and, for the reasons which I have indicated, I move that the further consideration of the subject be postponed until Monday next.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. RUSK. I wish to say simply that on Monday next I hope the Senate will indulge me in taking up this bill and considering it.

THOMAS P. DUDLEY.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. President, I move to take up House bill No. 121, for the relief of Thomas P. Underwood.

liey, an old soldier of Kentucky, who has written to me that he wants to be put upon the pension list. I know nothing about his claim, sir; but I suppose it is all right. The bill has passed the House, and has now come to the consideration of a committee of the body. I hope it will be taken up and acted upon.

The motion being agreed to, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill and read it by the title, and it was read. It provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall place the name of Thomas P. Dudley on the roll of invalid pensioners at the rate of \$1.35 per month, commencing on the 1st of January, 1865, and to continue during his natural life. No amendment being offered, it was reported to the Senate and ordered to pass to a third reading; and it was then read a third time and passed.

WILLIAM HAZARD WIGG, *Secretary*  
Mr. MASON. Mr. President, I hope it will be the pleasure of the Senate to take up bill No. 547, for the relief of the heirs of William Hazard Wigg. There is a report accompanying the bill, which was made by the committee on Education and the Arts, and which has of such exceeding interest, that I think the Senate will do well to put the bill upon its passage, and allow it to pass at this time. I move that the bill be now taken up.

the consideration of the bill authorizing the adjustment and payment of the claims of William Hazzard Wigg, deceased, for losses sustained by him during the war of the revolution. It was read and seconded, and was considered as in committee of the whole. It provides that the proper accounting officers, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, adjust and settle the claims of said William Hazzard Wigg, deceased, for losses sustained by him of South Carolina, for losses sustained by him, the said Wigg, while retained as a hostage by the British officers during the war of the revolution; and that in payment therefor, the sum of \$20,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be paid out of the Treasury on the 1st day of November 14, 1782, to the order of, stating the amount of said losses, be paid to the grantor of said William Hazzard Wigg, deceased.

Mr. BAYARD asked for the reading of the report accompanying the bill, and it was accordingly read.

Mr. B. said: I do not mean to object to this provision, or gratuity, as I view it, or to enter into the question of the propriety of this bill for the relief of the claimants of the United States office of the Treasury. The report, certainly did sustain losses during the revolutionary war. But I do object to the allowance of interest in this case from the year 1782 to the present time. And I therefore move to strike out the present clause, and to insert in its stead the following: "That the bill which allows that interest. The services of this

other may have been very gallant. I have no doubt they were, nor I am willing to go as far as any one in the way of allowing credit for revolutionaries. But the compensation for losses sustained in connection with those services. This claim, as far as I have been able to learn, is now presented to the Senate for the first time, after a lapse of more than seventy years, during all of which time interest is asked upon this claim. I know of no principle upon which I can allow this interest, as the government has been able, and no doubt willing, to pay all of this original claim at any time during the past fifty years, if it had been presented. I therefore move to strike out all of that portion of the bill relating to the allowance of interest from 1782 down to this time.

Mr. BUTLER. I am glad that my friend from Delaware, [Mr. DAYARD] whose name is associated with the revolution itself, has conceded a principle which will save me from some remarks which I might have made. He made, I think, the necessary point, that I should present this case in a very few words, so that it may be intelligible to the Senate, and appeal to the heart of the

If this case was not exempted by its peculiarity from the general class of claims for damages arising in consequence of the war of the revolution, I presume I could not ask for the indemnity provided for in the bill. But, if the execution of the bill is to be a big business, and the British were looking out for a victim for retaliation. The condition of Major Wigg and other persons, men of property and position, men who had been in the hands of the French, and, and occupied a big and important position in the society of Charleston, was that of prisoners of war, after the capitulation of Charleston—prisoners of war, and they were treated as such in the hands of the British, upon their plantations. After the execution of Hayne,